GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1290
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2016
Use of Synthetics in Packaging
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the synthetics have been gradually increasing its share into the packaging market replacing jute as the preferred packaging material;

(b) if so, whether people are stressing for traditional eco-friendly jute packaging materials in the wake of concerns over increase in synthetic use and environmental pollution by synthetic and plastic; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to recapture the jute market and promote jute as eco-friendly?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): In order to protect the Jute Industry, the Central Government had enacted the Jute Packaging Materials Act 1987, under which certain commodities shall be packed in jute packaging material as per percentages prescribed under the orders. Accordingly, under notification dated 14.01.2016, the Central Government has retained the existing norms which prescribe that 90% of the total production of food grains and 20% of the total production of the sugar are required to be packed in jute packaging material. Relaxation up to 30% in foodgrains can be provided only in case Jute mills are unable to provide Jute bags as per requisition. Therefore, jute industry is protected against other material including synthetics in the packaging market.

(b) & (c): Jute is a natural, eco-friendly fibre and therefore has wider market acceptability in the context of environmental pollution by synthetics. As jute is an eco-friendly fibre, the government has taken the following major measures to promote the jute products:-
(i) Through the Jute Common Facility Centre (CFC) Scheme, Government has sanctioned 5 CFCs to promote manufacture of Jute Diversified Products through Women Self Help Group (WSHGs).
(ii) Government has sought the support of various State Governments to use Jute Geo-Textiles for slope stabilization, reservoir restoration, and formation settlement including road construction.
(iii) The National Jute Board, a statutory body under Ministry of Textiles supports the marketing of jute products under the Market Development Assistance Scheme.
(iv) A Jute Design Cell has been set up in collaboration with National Institute of Design at Gandhinagar, to provide design support for development of Jute Diversified Products.
(v) Jute Geo-Textiles are also promoted under the over-all Scheme for usage of Geo-Textiles in the North Eastern Region.

****